

the polygon mirror **16a** is constant, the scanning angle is proportional to the rotation time, and therefore the information about the scanning angle is obtainable by measuring the elapsed time from the start of optical scanning.

[0051] Then, the comparator **33a** compares the output of the amplifier **32a** with the threshold value Ref supplied from the MPU **5**, and outputs "1" if the output of the amplifier **32a** is not smaller than the threshold value, or outputs "0" if the output of the amplifier **32a** is smaller than the threshold value. The first timer **34a** measures the duration of the "1" output and the "0" output from this comparator **33a**, and outputs the result of the measurement to the MPU **5**.

[0052] Next, the following description will explain the operation of calculating the position and size of the indicator S by the optical scanning-type touch panel of the present invention. FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing a state of implementing the optical scanning-type touch panel. In FIG. 5, however, the illustration of the constituent members other than the light send/receive units **1a**, **1b**, recurrence reflection sheet **7** and display screen **10** is omitted. Further, FIG. 5 shows the case where a finger is used as the indicator S.

[0053] The MPU **5** controls the polygon controller **4** to rotate the polygon mirrors **16a** and **16b** in the light send/receive units **1a** and **1b**, and thereby angularly scanning the laser beams from the light emitting elements **11a** and **11b**. As a result, the reflected light from the recurrence reflection sheet **7** enters the light receiving elements **13a** and **13b**. The amounts of the received light that entered the light receiving elements **13a** and **13b** as mentioned above are obtained as the light receiving signals which are the outputs of the light receiving signal detectors **3a** and **3b**.

[0054] Further, in FIG. 5, $\theta 00$ and $\phi 00$ represent the angles from a reference line connecting both of the light send/receive units **1a** and **1b** to the light receiving elements **13a** and **13b**, $\theta 0$ and $\phi 0$ represent the angles from the reference line connecting both of the light send/receive units **1a** and **1b** to the ends of the recurrence reflection sheet **7**, $\theta 1$ and $\phi 1$ represent the angles from the reference line to one end of the indicator S on the reference line side, and $\theta 2$ and $\phi 2$ represent the angles from the reference line to another end of the indicator S on the opposite side to the reference side, respectively.

[0055] FIG. 6(a) shows a waveform of a light receiving signal of the light receiving element **13a** and a waveform of the threshold value Ref in the comparator **33a** when the indicator S is not present, while FIG. 6(b) shows a waveform of a comparative output signal given by the comparator **33a** at this time. Note that the same waveforms are produced for the light send/receive unit **1b**.

[0056] When the scanning angle is $\theta 00$ ($\phi 00$), the light receiving element **13a** (**13b**) directly receives the light from the light emitting element **11a** (**11b**). This state is detected as the timing of changing the output signal of the comparator **33a** from "0" to "1", and further the cycle thereof is measured by the second timer **39a**. Accordingly, since the MPU **5** can monitor the rotation cycle of the polygon mirror **16a** (**16b**), it corrects the rotation of the pulse motor **21** that rotates the polygon mirror **16a** (**16b**), if necessary, by controlling the polygon controller **4**. Moreover, the second timer **39a** measures the elapsed time from the start of optical scanning. The MPU **5** determines a threshold value Ref used in the comparator **33a** according to this elapsed time.

[0057] Further, when the polygon mirror **16a** (**16b**) is a four-face regular polygon as in the present embodiment, the polygon mirror **16a** (**16b**) makes $\frac{1}{4}$ rotation in one cycle of measurement by the second timer **39a**.

[0058] When the indicator S is not present in the optical path of the scanning light, in the timing of $\theta 00$ ($\phi 00$) shown in FIG. 6(a), following the direct incidence on the light receiving element **13a** (**13b**), the reflected light from the recurrence reflection sheet **7** enters the light receiving elements **13a** (**13b**). As shown in FIG. 6(a), the amount of the reflected light from the recurrence reflection sheet **7** becomes maximum at the first angle of $\theta 0$ ($\phi 0$) because of the reception of the reflected light from the nearest portion of the recurrence reflection sheet **7**, and thereafter the amount of the reflected light decreases gradually, becomes minimum once at a corner portion in a diagonal direction, which is a farthest portion of the recurrence reflection sheet **7**, and then increases gradually and becomes minimum at an angle of 90° to complete one cycle of scanning.

[0059] Moreover, the threshold value Ref becomes maximum at a small scanning angle (just after starting optical scanning) at which there is a high possibility that a part of the laser beam emitted from the light emitting element **11a** (**11b**) directly enters the light receiving element **13a** (**13b**), and decreases as the scanning angle becomes smaller, i.e., as the elapsed time from the start of optical scanning becomes longer.

[0060] By the way, when a threshold value Ref is set in the comparator **33a** as mentioned above, the MPU **5** inputs the result of the measurement performed by the first timer **34a** for measuring the time during which an output signal of the comparator **33a** is "1", i.e., the level of an input signal to the comparator **33a** is not less than the threshold value Ref. When the device is in normal conditions, an output "1" of a relatively short time caused by the directly incident light on the light receiving element **13a** and an output "1" of a relatively long time caused by the reflected light from the recurrence reflection sheet **7** are obtained as the output signals of the comparator **33a**. However, since the output "1" of a relatively short time caused by the directly incident light on the light receiving element **13a** is synchronous with the measuring cycle of the second timer **39a**, as shown in FIG. 6(b), the MPU **5** stores in the RAM **26** only the duration of the output "1" of a relatively long time caused by the reflected light from the recurrence reflection sheet **7** as the measured time.

[0061] FIG. 7(a) shows a waveform of a light receiving signal of the light receiving element **13a** and a waveform of the threshold value Ref in the comparator **33a** when the indicator S is present, while FIG. 7(b) shows a waveform of a comparative output signal of the comparator **33a** at this time. Note that the same waveforms are produced for the light send/receive unit **1b**.

[0062] When the indicator S is present in the optical path of the scanning light on the display screen **10**, the light beams projected from the light send/receive units **1a** and **1b** and then reflected from the indicator S do not enter the light receiving elements **13a** and **13b**. Therefore, in a state as shown in FIG. 5, the reflected light does not enter the light receiving element **13a** when the scanning angle is in the range between 0° and $\theta 0$, the reflected light enters the light receiving element **13a** when the scanning angle is in the